Countries in the American Continent and Other Places in Western Hemisphere	36	48	60	75	84

Proposed rates are in terms of caps. They are:

Categorics of Countries	*Proposed Tariff Cap* (Rs. per minute)
SAARC countries and other Neighbouring Countries	Rs. 19.50
Countries in Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania	Rs. 30.00
Countries in the American Continent and other places in Western Hemisphere	Rs. 39.00

Similar to other situations, caps for call charges are lower for rural PCOs and VPTs than for general subscribers. It is proposed that the change in call charge be implemented in phases.

Token strike against Corporatisation of DOT

516. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a one day token strike was called by the staff unions of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on November 12, 1998 to protest against the corporation and subsequent privatisation of DOT;

(b) if is, the details and its impact on the telccome services in the country; and

(c) the Government's reaction to their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Some Unrecognised Unions of DOT launched a one day Token Strike for settlement of their pending demands. The demand that there should be no corporat-isation of DOT is only one of the de mands. However, the question of privat isation figuring now in the Rajya Sabha Question does not find a place in their demands. The remaining demands relate to service matters like upgradation and the anomalies in the pay scales of the DOT employees and improvement in other benefits which became admissible consequent upon the recommendations of the 5th CPC.

(b) On the day of Token Strike i.e. 12.11.98, the local/STD/ISD services through-out the country remained nor mal. However, in the Manual Trunk Services and Telegraph Services, the work was affected in Calcutta Telephone District and moderately in some parts of West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Assam Circles. In the remaining Circles, the position was reported to be, by and large normal.

(c) Their demands are being examined.

अतिविशिष्ट व्यक्तियों पर टेलीफोन की बकाया राशियां

517. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य" :**
श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे :